

Local News Briefs

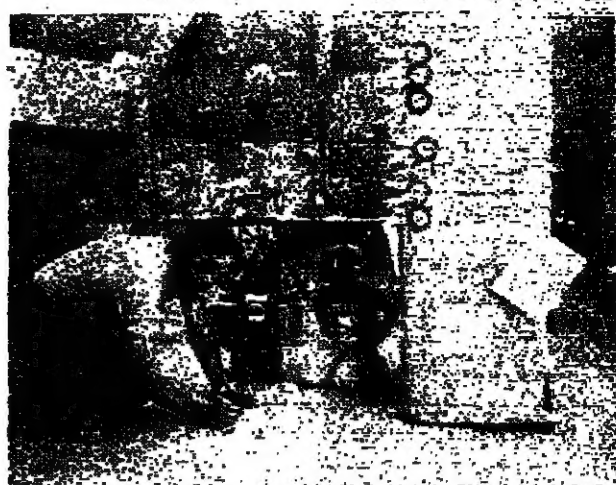
AMMAN, May 23 (JT) -- The Minister of Tourism, Dr. Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz, and Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben today paid an inspection visit to the Zarqa Ma'in hot springs near Madaba, some 40 kilometres southwest of Amman. They were briefed on progress on the construction of a health spa at the site carrying out the project. The Jordanian government holds 41 per cent of a company set up to operate the spa, whose construction will cost an estimated JD 6.5 million. Twenty per cent of the rest of the shares are owned by banks, and the rest privately. A Ministry of Tourism spokesman said the company will announce a public bond sale in the next two weeks.

AMMAN, May 23 (JT) -- Development of Al Hamad basin, a region bordering on Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia will cost nearly JD 1.5 million, according to a source at the Natural Resources Authority. The project, a joint venture by the four neighbouring Arab states, will benefit bedouins and nomadic groups in the region. It is being carried out under the supervision of the Damascus-based Arab Centre for the Study of Dry Regions and Arid Territories.

AMMAN, May 23 (JT) -- A five-member delegation from the British House of Commons arrived here today for a week-long visit. They are Mr. Robert Adley, Mr. Hudson Davies, Mr. Andrew Faulds, the Hon. Mark Lennov-Boyd and Mr. Anthony Nelson, who are members of the Anglo-Jordanian Parliamentary Group. They will tour Palestinian refugee camps and archaeological sites and will hold talks with a number of government officials.

AMMAN, May 23 (JT) -- The executive council of the Amman-based Arab League Organisation of Administrative Science opens a five-day meeting here Saturday. Representatives of all Arab states except Egypt are taking part in the meeting, at which a number of subjects pertaining to co-operation among Arab states on administrative science will be discussed, the organisation's Director General, Dr. Abdullah Al Zuhbi, said. He added that the council will discuss among other things the issuance of reference work on administration in Arab and Islamic nations, the organisation's financial report and last year's achievements. The organisation was created in 1961, but commenced work in 1969. Its main purpose is to improve the quality of administrative staff in the Arab World.

AMMAN, May 23 (JT) -- The General Union of Volunteers in Jordan last night decided to extend material aid to the Bank towns of Hebron and Anabta, which have lately been oppressed by Israeli measures. The decision to offer the aid, he channelled through the International Committee of Cross, was taken at a meeting of the union's executive council to review conditions in the occupied Arab territories. The meeting the council also discussed the union's programme for the next five years.



Mr. Earl Yost, social studies teacher, puts finishing touches directing the public to the Academic Fair in the American Community School's multi-purpose room. Class projects in the arts and nursery school through tenth grade, are being displayed today, June 24, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

(Photo by: Marianne)

TODAY'S WEATHER

There will be a rise in temperature, with light and variable winds becoming easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight	Daytime
low	12	27
high	20	33
Amman	12	30
Aqaba	18	32
Deserts		
Jordan Valley		

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	296.50
U.K. sterling	695.00
West German mark	165.60
Swiss franc	178.10
French franc	71.10
Italian lire	(for every 100)
Japanese yen	35.20
(for every 100)	
Dutch guilder	132.00
Swedish crown	150.90
Belgium franc	70.50
	103.20

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Sidelines and front lines

U.S. SECRETARY of State Edmund Muskie has advised the European countries, and the Arab countries, against trying to come up with any fresh peace initiative to supplant the Camp David process, which is about to draw its last breath with the expiry on Monday of the deadline for the Egyptian-Israeli talks on Palestinian "autonomy."

"I think it would be a disservice to stability in the area, to the prospect of a further rallying of support for the results of this process if we were to back off, or if initiatives were taken by other countries which undercut this process," Mr. Muskie told newsmen in Washington earlier this week.

The issues still in dispute in the "head-to-head" autonomy talks, Mr. Muskie said, had been reduced to just six, involving such minor matters as "land, settlements, security, and so on."

Nothing that has been proposed from the sidelines, so far as I can see, holds out a better prospect for coming to grips with these six fundamental questions and the issue of autonomy any more effectively than these talks," the novice diplomat concluded.

It seems Mr. Muskie has spared no time in assuming the arrogance of power personified by one of his predecessors, Dr. Henry Kissinger.

We almost can't decide what should offend us more--the suggestion that it would be unhelpful for Arab states and Arab peoples to take part in the determination of their own future, or the contention that those who have to live daily with the occupation of their land, the terrorisation of their people and the desecration of their heritage are somehow on the "sidelines" rather than in the front lines.

It seems a bit late in the second half to be maintaining doggedly that Camp David is still the only game in town. And perhaps what alarms us most is the almost subliminal assertion by Secretary of State Muskie that any approach other than Camp David would somehow be "a disservice to stability in the area."

If he has been in office long enough to start telling the Arabs that they should have nothing to do with the resolution of the struggle for their national birthright, then he has also been there long enough to appreciate that Camp David in all its aspects has created the greatest single threat to the stability of this region--and we live here, not Mr. Muskie--since the creation of Israel in 1948.

It has done this by sanctioning and enhancing Israel's predilection for territorial aggrandisement, carving the heart out of the Arab Nation and transplanting it into the evil soul of Zionism, driving a wedge between Arab and Islamic brethren, and creating the perfect pretext for superpower intervention in the Middle East.

If that isn't a disservice--to all mankind--we should like to know what is.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim warned yesterday of a real danger of a Third World War due to the current deterioration of international relations, threats of aggression and feelings of mistrust and apprehension among nations.

These signs of deterioration in the international situation characterise the Middle East problem in particular, and the effects of Israel's continued aggression on the Arab Nation. This aggression has contributed to a deterioration of relations between the United States and the Arab and Muslim nations, and indeed represents a hot-bed of tension that seems to be steadily worsening and slipping out of control.

Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people and its illegal establishment of settlements on confiscated Arab property contribute to the aggravation of the situation and tend to escalate tension in the region. U.S. economic and military assistance to Israel encourages the Zionist state to pursue its present policies and thus increase world tension.

Mr. Waldheim's warning was not intended only to refer to the situation in the Middle East, but also points to the hot spots of Iran and Afghanistan. His statement seems to be an appeal to the superpowers to try to ease world tension and seek a solution to major problems.

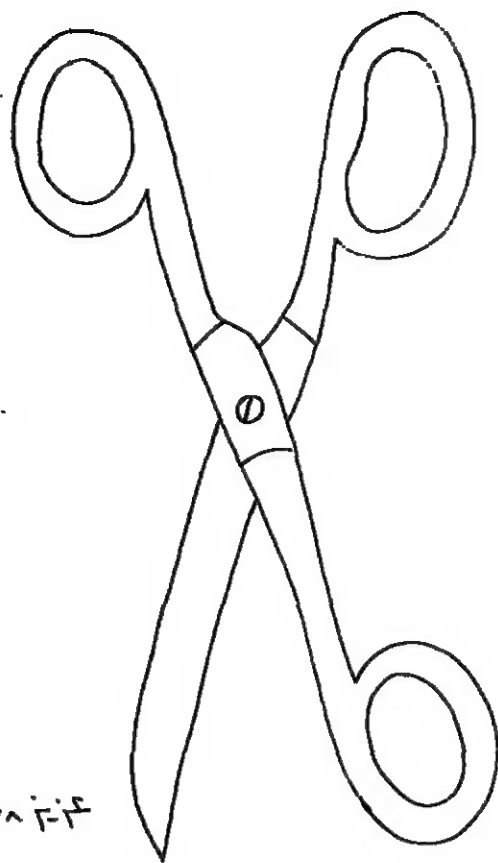
AL DUSTOUR: We can rightly assume that the just-concluded Islamic conference in Pakistan had heralded the emergence of a Muslim power which can play a leading role in the preservation of world peace.

The conference has come to the conclusion that Israel represents a base for imperialist aggression against the Arab and Muslim nations. If the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the conference were to be put into action, they would contribute enormously to the restoration of Arab rights in Jerusalem and the holy places of Palestine.

Backed by absolute support from the United States, Israel has to date ignored all recommendations and resolutions passed by the United Nations, the non-aligned nations and other conferences and organisations, because those were not backed up by action and effective measures to force Israel to abandon its aggressive policies.

The conference has called on Muslim nations to boycott and sever relations with countries that recognise Israel's annexation of Jerusalem, and for the expulsion of the Zionist state from the United Nations. Therefore the Muslim nations should now exercise pressure on the United States, which so far has obstructed the implementation of such measures against Israel.

Unless Muslim nations take this important step and follow up on their resolutions, strengthen their solidarity in the face of imperialist aggression and ambitions, the resolutions passed in Islamabad will not be worth the paper on which they are written.



Cartoonist Alf's message is it takes two fingers to work a pair of scissors. If three fingers try to manipulate the scissors, nothing is accomplished -- the same goes for three powers trying to negotiate Palestinian autonomy.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Poster and Painting Exhibition

The Jordanian Artists' Association presents an exhibition of posters and painting about Palestine. The exhibition is open 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and from 4-7 p.m. at the Artists' Association Exhibition Hall, across the street from the French Cultural Centre in Jabal Luweibeh.

Photography Exhibition

An exhibition of photography of Jordan sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre and Air France, is open during office hours at the French Centre.

Academic Fair

An academic fair featuring student exhibits on a variety of subjects is being held at the American Community School near the Royal Automobile Club on Fifth Circle. The exhibition is open to the public during school hours.

Arts and Crafts Exhibition

The Ministry of Social Development, in collaboration with the Queen Alia Society for hearing impaired children, presents an exhibition of arts and crafts by the students of the Queen Alia Centre. The exhibition is open 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 - 6 p.m. at the Haya Arts Centre in Shmeisani.

Exhibition

The Goethe Institute, in cooperation with the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Jordan (Department of Physics), presents an exhibition entitled "The Utilization of Solar Energy: A task for the Future". The exhibition, organised by the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations in Stuttgart, opens daily at 10 a.m. at the Institute.

FOR SALE IMMEDIATELY

A tourist resthouse and a furnished apartment

The three-star Khoury Resthouse and Restaurant in a suburb of Ma'an in southern Jordan is for sale.

- The resthouse is on the ground floor, which is 667 sq. m. in area.
- The first floor consists of two bedrooms, a drawing room, dining room and a German-equipped kitchen, modern bathroom and a solar water heater with six mirrors, as well as two heating systems for the flat, which has an area of 220 sq. m. including the veranda -- in addition to an open yard of 40 sq. m.
- The resthouse has beautiful decor and accommodates 130 guests. The kitchen is equipped with modern appliances including 10 refrigerators, a chicken roaster, ice cream maker with electric engine, a Lister power generator with a three-horsepower engine producing 25 KW of power, together with a Vas refrigerator. Adjoining the resthouse is an eight-dunum plot of land on the same level with the Desert Highway.
- Chrysler "New Yorker" car, 1977 model, air-conditioned and fully automatic, with radio and stereo set.
- Plymouth "Valery" car 1977 model, air-conditioned, fully automatic with radio and stereo set.

The two cars are in very good condition.

Price: Very tempting
Reason for sale:
Owner lacks time to manage

Contact owner:
Mr. Mohammad Shafaq Khoury,
Ma'an, Tel. 83, P.O. Box 83

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Her Highness Princess Majda and British Ambassador Alan Urwick look on as children from Al Hussein Society for Child Welfare try out 13 specially built wheelchairs donated to the society by the British government.

BRITISH EMBASSY

All sections of the British Embassy, including the Consular and Visa section, will be closed to the public on Monday, May 26, 1980.

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Damas-Scene

Compiled for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

ELSEWHERE IN SYRIA

MONDAY, May 26 and TUESDAY, May 27: Traditional and contemporary songs and instrumental numbers of Tunisia will be performed by the 33-member ensemble of Al Rashidi Music Conservatory at 7 p.m. in the Homs Arab Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

SUNDAY, May 25 - TUESDAY, May 27: An original Tunisian drama, "The Washing Machine of the Wheat Fields", will be presented for the first time outside Tunisia at Al Hamra Theatre. The New Tunisian Theatre Group is presenting the 8:30 p.m. performance in conjunction with Tunisian Cultural Week activities. Tickets may be obtained in advance at the theatre box office.

THURSDAY, May 29, and FRIDAY, May 30: "Don Juan" will be performed in Arabic by students of the National Institute of Dramatic Art at Al Kabbani Theatre. Show time is 8:30 p.m. Visiting French actor and drama coach Mr. Michel Richard is directing the production. Ticket information may be obtained by phoning the French Cultural Centre: 710-023.

TUNIS MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, May 24 and WEDNESDAY, May 28: The 33-person ensemble of Al Rashidi Music Conservatory of Tunis will perform traditional and contemporary Tunisian songs at 9 p.m. in Al Hamra Theatre. Tickets may be obtained at the theatre box office a few hours before the show.

WHITSUNDAY SERVICE

SUNDAY, May 25: The Rev. Colin Chapman will conduct a family communion service at 10:45 a.m. in the Damascus Community School. Rev. Chapman is an Anglican clergyman living in Beirut. Persons of all denominations are invited.

VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMMES

TUESDAY, May 27: Sports for the month of April will be shown at 6 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre (in French).

WEDNESDAY, May 28: "The 1976 - 77 Theatre Season in the Bundes Republic" is the title of a special programme narrated in Arabic at 8 p.m. in the Goethe Institute.

... A journal of a voyage with Andre Malraux and an imaginary trip to India with Jean-Marie Drot will highlight a 6 p.m. programme in the French Cultural Centre (in French).

FRIDAY, May 30: Documentaries on the Garnier Palais and Paris Opera will be shown at 6 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre (in French).

FILMS

SATURDAY, May 24: "Feuer Um Mitternacht", a crime film based on the novel by Boy Lornsen, will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Goethe Institute. Gustav Ehmck directed the film in 1978 (in German, with Arabic sub-titles).

SATURDAY, May 24, and MONDAY, May 26: "La Femme Infidele," a 1969 film directed by Claude Chabrol, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre. Michel Bouquet, Stephane Audran and Maurice Ronet star (in French, with Arabic sub-titles; colour).

MONDAY, May 26: A documentary film, entitled "The Voice of Free Africa," will be shown at 6 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural Centre.

TUESDAY, May 27 - FRIDAY, May 30: "Midnight Cowboy", starring Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight, will be shown nightly at 7 p.m. in the American Cultural Centre. Admission is by membership only.

WEDNESDAY, May 28: "Where Are You, Banha?" is the title of a feature film to be shown at 7 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural Centre.

THURSDAY, May 29: "Le Yeux Fermes," a 1974 film directed by Joel Santoni, will be shown at 8:30 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre. It stars Gerard Desarthe, Lorraine Ruiner and Dalio. (in French; Arabic sub-titles).

FRIDAY, May 30: "The Warm Sun of Autumn" is a feature film scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural Centre (Arabic sub-titles).

If you have items for the Damas-Scene column, please telephone them in Damascus to 336-658 or mail them 10 days in advance to Pat McDonnell, P.O. Box 5601, Damascus.



Oil painting by Hammud Chantut included in the exhibition by six young Syrian painters in the Spanish Cultural Centre.

People ...in the news

THE AMERICAN CENTRE OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH's dining table has been filled to overflowing in recent days. Apart from ACOR's normal complement of scholars, it has been enjoying a visit from American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) President Phil King and Dr. Michael Coogan of the Committee on Archaeological policy. Dr. Coogan says their visit is "two-pronged" - both to check up on current ACOR projects and to show two of ASOR's trustees around the country.



Dr. Richard Pedersen

leave tomorrow morning, and his schedule while here is very busy, encompassing meetings with the Prime Minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, and U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Veliotes, and a dinner after this evening's reception at which a number of distinguished Jordanian guests are expected to attend.

Dr. Pedersen was preceded to Jordan by AUC's Director of Alumni and Trustee Affairs, Mrs. Mary Iskander, who arrived on Thursday.

THIS EVENING at 4:30, American University of Cairo (AUC) alumni in Jordan will get an opportunity to meet AUC's current president, Dr. Richard Pedersen, for a gala reception and discussion of AUC and alumni affairs. Dr. Pedersen, who is AUC's seventh president, has a diplomatic and academic career stretching back 30 years. He arrived in Amman last night and will

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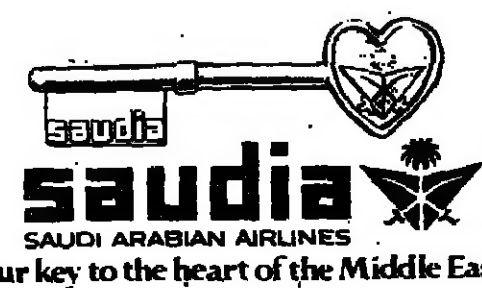
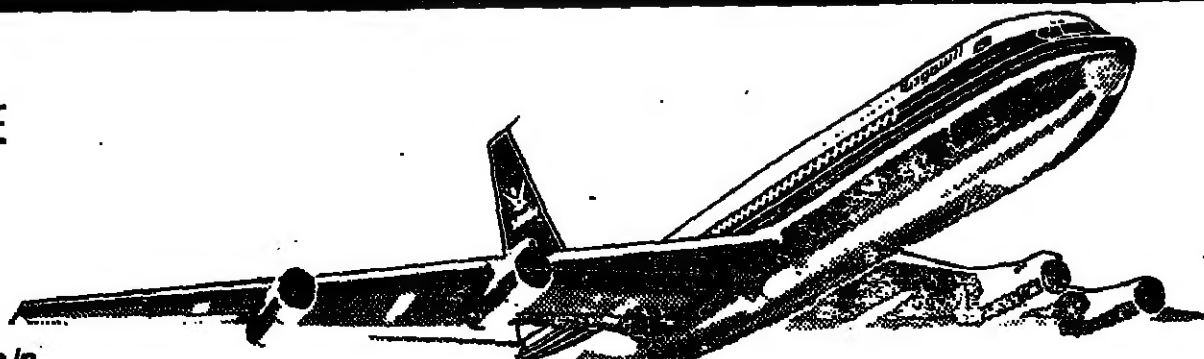
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Foreign states' assets in U.S. fall by \$7.7 b

WASHINGTON, May 23 (AP)—Foreign government assets in the United States fell \$7.7 billion in the first quarter of 1980, as foreign countries sold dollars on international monetary markets to support their currencies, the government reported yesterday.

The drop followed a decrease in foreign official assets of \$500 million in the final three months of 1979, the U.S. Commerce Department report showed.

While the foreign governments were working to support their currencies, the dollar appreciated 9 percent during the first quarter on a trade-weighted basis, against the currencies of 10 industrial countries. The appreciation which was related to the sharper rise in U.S. interest rates occurred against all major foreign currencies, the report said.

Meanwhile, U.S. banks' liabilities to foreigners rose \$8.9 billion in the first three months of this year, compared with \$1.4 billion in the final three months of 1979, due to the strong demand for credit from U.S. banks and

record high interest rates in the United States.

Claims by banks on foreigners decreased \$2.9 billion during the first quarter, compared with an increase of 7.3 billion in the final months of 1979.

On the other hand, legislation promising \$3.6 billion to the world development banks won final congressional approval yesterday and headed to the White House for President Carter's signature. Mr. Carter had requested a \$4-billion contribution, but he later asked the Congress to pass the bill containing the lesser amount, arguing the alternative of no bill at all "would be disastrous" to the banks.

The Senate approved the compromise measure without formal objection although Sen. Jacob Javits said the reduction was "extremely ill-advised." Mr. Javits said he supported final passage only because Carter administration officials promised to fight for a higher amount next year.

Fed eases credit restrictions as U.S. inflation rate drops to 11.6%

NEW YORK, May 23. (R)—Citibank, today slashed its prime interest rate by two full points to 14.5 percent, the lowest in the U.S. banking industry. The move was a further indicator of declining demand for credit in a slackening economy.

Two other major banks, Chase Manhattan and the Bankers Trust Company, cut their prime rate by

one point to 15.5 percent yesterday. The cut in the prime rate—the interest charged on loans to banks' best corporate customers—will mean lower interest rates in general in the weeks to come.

The prime rate reached a record 20 percent early in April but has been pushed down steadily in recent weeks because of falling demand for bank loans. The Car-

ter administration, however, said yesterday banks were not lowering the rate fast enough.

Meanwhile, the U.S. inflation rate fell sharply last month to its lowest level in more than a year, according to figures released today. The consumer price index, the basis measure of inflation, rose 0.9 percent in April against 1.4 percent in March. That is equivalent to an annual rate of 11.6

percent, a big drop from the 18.6 percent rate of the first three months of 1980, when the U.S. suffered its worst post-war inflation.

The slowdown was a major piece of good news for President Carter, who sees inflation as his number one economic problem and ordered a package of measures in March aimed at combating it. The Federal Reserve Board,

being uniform. For instance, a mechanical engineering employee must toil nine and half minutes for one kilogramme of bread in Australia and Switzerland, five minutes in Denmark, 18 minutes in France, 22.5 minutes in Italy and 11.5 minutes in the United States.

For the same quantity of bread he would have to work 25.4 minutes in South Korea, 40 minutes in Malaysia and one hour and 34 minutes in India. Expressed in work time, one kilogramme of rice is worth 9.5 minutes in Australia, 22 minutes in France, 38.5 minutes in West Germany, 27 minutes in Italy, 14 minutes in Spain, ten minutes in Switzerland and 4.5 minutes in the United States.

In terms of work time rice is most expensive in Asia, where it is considered staple. In South Korea an engineering industry worker must spend 10.5 minutes on the job to buy one kilogramme, in Japan 23.5 minutes, in Singapore 24.5 minutes, in Indonesia 40 minutes, in Malaysia 52 minutes and in India 1:11 hours.

Without explaining the differences from country to country, the survey gives the corresponding work times for one kilogramme of fish for Kenya as 3:15 hours, Japan 3:17 hours, Malaysia 3:20 hours and India 13:06 hours. If a mechanical engineering worker wants to buy his wife a dress, he must put in 5:52 hours in the

Predictably, fish is cheapest in Iceland in the Northern Atlantic. Here it takes the same worker an average of just 11 minutes to earn enough to buy one kilogramme of it. His colleague in the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius has to toil 5:09 hours for the same quantity, according to the federation figures.

In landlocked Austria one kilogramme of fish represents 1:36 hours of work while in France a coastal state bordering on both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, the price is 12 minutes greater. The work time for 1 kilogramme of fish in Denmark is 22 minutes, in Finland 27 minutes, Norway 23 minutes, United States 39.5 minutes, Australia 47 minutes, and Britain 1:20 hours.

As to how many hours must the average worker with children put in to pay his annual taxes, the survey gives the following examples: Australia, 564 hours; Austria, 312 hours; Britain, 484 hours; Japan, 145 hours; Spain, 220 hours; Sweden, 646 hours; The United States, 162 hours; South Korea, 19 hours; India 425 hours; and Singapore, 16 hours.

United States, while in the textile country of South Korea he would have to sweat it out for no less than 65 hours.

A small two-room-kitchen-bath apartment is a luxury in most developing countries. The work-time tag of the rent can be as high as 262 hours in Kenya, while in Singapore it is only 41 hours, the same as in Norway. The cheapest monthly rents, in the industrial world, are Luxembourg, 22 hours; Switzerland, 23 hours; Sweden, 26 hours; Finland, 28 hours; Iceland, 29 hours and the United States, 31 hours. The most expensive are Australia, 54 hours; France, 55 hours; and Spain, 77 hours.

As to how many hours must the average worker with children put in to pay his annual taxes, the survey gives the following examples: Australia, 564 hours; Austria, 312 hours; Britain, 484 hours; Japan, 145 hours; Spain, 220 hours; Sweden, 646 hours; The United States, 162 hours; South Korea, 19 hours; India 425 hours; and Singapore, 16 hours.

mortgages. Petrol prices were unchanged in April after a 3.9 percent rise the previous month.

Mr. Carter has said the U.S. recession would be mild and short, but most economists now believe the economy may be approaching the second-worst recession since the 1930s, one nearly as severe as the 1974 downturn triggered by the oil embargo.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATE

LONDON, May 23 (R)—Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets.

One sterling	2.3445/60	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1602/05	Canadian dollar
	1.7775/7785	West German mark
	1.9540/55	Dutch guilder
	1.6500/20	Swiss franc
	28.48/53	Belgian franc
	4.1460/1510	French franc
	836.60/837.10	Italian lire
	221.10/35	Japanese yen
	4.1900/15	Swedish crown
	4.8815/25	Norwegian crown
	5.5605/15	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	\$10.00/513.00	U.S. dollars

ME investors might win control of U.S. bank

WASHINGTON, May 23 (AP)—Investors from Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi appear to have won a two-year battle for control of Financial General Bankshares, a holding company which operates 12 major banks in Washington, Maryland, New York and Tennessee.

If federal and state regulators give their approval, ownership of the \$2.2 billion company will be turned over to a company controlled by Sheikh Kamal Adham, former director of Saudi Arabia's intelligence agency, Mr. Faisal Saud Al Fula, businessman from Kuwait and Mr. Abdullah Darwish, manager of the financial affairs of the royal family of Abu Dhabi.

Their efforts to take over the bank began in December 1978 with the help of Mr. Bert Lance, who had resigned as President Carter's budget director and sold his own bank to a Saudi financier. Mr. Lance later dropped out of the takeover attempt. Officers of Financial General, chaired by Mr. B.F. Saul, Washington real estate executive, had refused to cooperate with Sheikh Adham's group. They changed their position when a shareholder referendum last month showed owners of 6 percent of the company's shares wanted the Financial General to stop rejecting the takeover.

AMMAN MARKET PLACE

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U.S. makes last effort to boost Olympic boycott

WASHINGTON, May 23 (R) — United States diplomats around the world will be lobbying hard today in a final effort to extend the boycott of the

Moscow Summer Olympics, for which entries must be submitted by tomorrow.

According to a list issued by the State Department last night, 62 countries have already joined the boycott in protest against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

These countries, according to the department, represent about half the athletes and up to half the expected medal winners who would normally have gone to Moscow.

But a Reuters survey shows that the boycott will have less dramatic results, despite the absence from Moscow of such notable sporting

nations as West Germany and the United States itself. Of the 198 gold medals awarded in 1976 in Montreal, 138 were won by countries likely to appear in Moscow.

According to the department's own list, 42 of the 104 countries which voted at the United Nations last January to condemn the Soviet military intervention have not asked their national Olympic committees to join the boycott.

Even more damaging to American hopes of an overwhelming demonstration of international protest at the Soviet action in

Afghanistan has been the refusal of the national committees of many of its allies to conform to their governments' requests that they join the boycott.

Australia and Spain today decided to send teams to Moscow, defying government calls for a boycott.

The decision of the Luxembourg committee yesterday to take part in the Olympics means that West Germany will be the only member of the nine-nation European Common Market to join the boycott.

The Israeli and Argentine committees voted yesterday for the boycott. Japan will vote tomorrow, just on the deadline.

The State Department said yesterday that some International Olympic Committee (IOC) members seemed to want to change the IOC rules and extend tomorrow's deadline.

"If that is the case," a senior official told reporters, "we will actively pursue the cause of a boycott with those who already decided to go. This will be a two-way street."

In Brussels today, a spokesman for the organising committee of the Moscow Olympics threw doubt on reports that some 60 countries would boycott the games in July.

Mr. Vledislav Shevchenko, Soviet head of the committee's public relations, told a press conference here that Moscow had only received three negative replies to invitations to attend the Olympics, although the closing date for applications is tomorrow.

The three countries were Albania, Malawi and Saudi Arabia, and another 75 countries had said they would come, he said. Asked about U.S. State Department allegations that 62 countries would stay away, Mr. Shevchenko said: "That's not true... Let's wait a few more days."

Mr. Shevchenko declined to discuss the reason put forward by Western countries for boycotting the games — Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Iran silent on EEC sanctions

TEHRAN, May 23 (R) — Iranian leaders have made no public comment on the imposition of economic sanctions yesterday by the European Common Market which they have repeatedly said will not prevent Iran from buying essential supplies.

When the sanctions were announced last weekend, government leaders admitted that goods imported through third parties would be more expensive but reiterated that a trade ban would help Iran's drive towards self-sufficiency.

There was considerable uncertainty here about the scope of the sanctions imposed in support of United States efforts to secure the release of 53 Americans held hostage in Iran.

Eight Common Market countries yesterday imposed the sanctions with retrospective effect to last Nov. 4, when the hostages were seized.

Officials in London said last night that British sanctions would not come into effect for a few days because of technical and practical factors. Britain broke ranks with its Community partners when the government bowed to parliamentary pressure and announced that the sanctions would not be retrospective.

Informed sources said the Central Bank had asked Iranian commercial banks not to negotiate letters of credit with any bank in a country imposing sanctions.

They said this was a precautionary measure taken because it was not clear whether a letter of credit would be viewed as a normal commercial contract or would be exempt from the trade embargo.

Diplomats and economic analysts have said that a ban on European exports of all goods except food and medicine will have little immediate impact on what is already a depressed economy. Supplies of essential goods can be easily found through intermediaries and from friendly countries.

But they have said that, seen as part of growing international economic pressure on Iran, it will heighten the isolation of the economy and make it difficult to import the heavy industrial goods which Iran needs to develop an independent economy.

The Japanese cabinet today formally approved its sanctions policy against Iran, government officials in Tokyo said.

All export and service contracts signed since last Nov. 4 will be suspended and export trade and foreign exchange regulations tightened to control deals with Iran, the officials said.

The Japanese sanctions, which exclude food and pharmaceuticals as well as a major \$3.2 billion petrochemical complex being jointly developed at Bandar Khomeini, will go into effect on June 2.

Tokyo, Bonn endorse ICO efforts for Afghan solution

BONN, May 23 (AP) — Foreign ministers of Japan and West Germany today endorsed efforts by the Islamic nations to work for a withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

In a statement released after their meeting, the foreign office said Japan's Mr. Saburo Okita and West Germany's Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher "emphasise the importance of the fact that the Islamic states, and therefore an important section of the countries of the region, have spoken out emphatically for a solution of the Afghanistan crisis."

"Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany, together with their European partners, are conscious of the necessity of supporting, in the framework of the joint concept, the countries of the region in their efforts for economic and therefore political stability," the joint statement said.

The 39-nation Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) announced yesterday in Islamabad that they had formed a three-member committee to work for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Members of the committee include Pakistan's foreign affairs adviser Mr. Agha Shahi, ICO Secretary-General Habib Chatti of Tunisia and Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Qoutzadeh.

A foreign office spokesman said the Afghanistan crisis was a major topic during the lengthy meeting between Mr. Okita and Mr. Genscher, held in the ministry headquarters on the banks of the River Rhine.

The Bonn government has maintained that Moscow's incursion into Afghanistan, including the Dec. 27 coup that installed President Buharak Karmal, should prompt Western nations to seek closer ties with independent states in the region. West German officials said they were encouraged that the ICO, including Iran, had pledged to work for a solution of the Afghanistan crisis.

Mr. Okita and Mr. Genscher also reviewed bilateral relations as well as plans for the June 22-23 economic summit conference in Venice, which heads of government from the United States, Canada, Britain, West Germany, France, Italy and Japan will attend.

The talks were the 11th in a series of regular consultations at the foreign minister level between the governments in Bonn and Tokyo. Mr. Genscher and Mr. Okita last conferred in Luxembourg on April 22 during an EEC foreign ministers' conference.

World will face a tight oil market for rest of decade, predicts U.S. report

WASHINGTON, May 23 (R) — The world will face a tight oil market for the rest of this decade, possibly pushing up prices to \$52 a barrel in 1985, according to a congressional study issued yesterday.

The higher prices will cause a growing glut of U.S. dollars abroad — now estimated at \$1,000 billion — depressing the value of the currency and creating pressure for its replacement as the world's reserve currency, the study said.

The gloomy assessment of the world's oil market in the 1980s and the implications for the United States was issued by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

The CBO report also examined the effects of a future interruption in U.S. oil imports of 3.5 million barrels a day for a year.

It found that such a nine per cent petroleum shortfall would cause the nation's real output to decline 6.8 per cent, unemployment to rise by 2.1 per cent and inflation rates to increase by 20 per cent.

The CBO said that assuming a two per cent annual increase in oil prices in real terms, world demand for oil would exceed available supply by 10.6 million barrels a day in 1990.

"Thus, it is probable that the world oil market will remain tight through the next decade, and that there will be increases in the price of oil," the report said.

Noting that U.S. balance of trade problems, partly caused by oil imports, have weakened the dollar, the report said continued declines might ultimately cause OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) to abandon use of the dollar for oil

payments. Such a move would be seen as a signal that the dollar was no longer tenable as a world reserve currency and unless it was phased out in an orderly way, a rush against the dollar could result, the CBO said.

This would mean higher prices for oil and all other imports into the United States and heavy losses for the economy, the report said, although it added there was no reason to suppose that OPEC would welcome a collapse of the dollar.

The report also said that declines in Soviet oil production should move the Soviet bloc into the position of a net oil importer by 1985, drawing possibly two million barrels a day from the world market by 1990.

Import targets reduced

In Paris yesterday, leading Western oil consuming countries agreed they should reduce still further import targets up to 1985, fixed at 26.2 million barrels a day only five months ago.

Faced with a new round of oil price increases and sharply reduced forecasts of OPEC output, ministers of the International Energy Agency (IEA) tightened their rules on restricting oil demand and consumption.

Although the IEA communique set no new formal target for oil imports in 1985, the agency secretary estimated the possible reduction at around four million barrels a day.

The conference chairman, West German Economics Minister Otto Luibsdorff, told correspondents that ministers disagreed about

precise import goals, and the outcome was a compromise.

The ministers also announced that they would meet at short notice to prevent a scramble for resources if any new supply crisis hit the international market.

U.S. Energy Secretary Charles Duncan told a news conference the IEA was now moving from words to action in its campaign to curb demand and consumption, with a system of regular checks of national performance.

He described a cut in imports of four million barrels a day as a reasonable target which the United States supported.

Mr. Duncan said oil producers had raised the prices by 150 per cent in the last 16 months and the latest increases had no economic justification. The U.S. energy secretary said they would cost consumer countries an extra \$15 billion a year.

Plans are proceeding for Schmidt to visit Moscow

BONN, May 23 (AP) — Following the Soviet-French summit, plans are in full swing for Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to visit Moscow this summer — the first such trip by a Western leader since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

West German and Soviet officials have been working for weeks to arrange the visit, which only a few months ago appeared to have been a casualty of the post-Afghanistan chill in East-West relations. Efforts were accelerated after French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing broke the ice in East-West contacts and met Monday in Warsaw with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

Observers noted the Giscard meeting, which took place after little consultation among the Western allies, might make it easier politically for Mr. Schmidt to make the controversial visit, expected in early July. Government sources hope the French precedent will weaken charges from Washington and domestic political opponents that Mr. Schmidt is risking the West's "solid front" against the Soviets.

West German newspapers report the foreign office has proposed to the Soviets that Mr. Schmidt make the trip between June 30 and July 6, just before the Summer Olympic Games which the Germans have decided to boycott. State Secretary Klaus Boelling, the government's chief spokesman, declined to confirm a date but said Mr. Guenther von Weizsäcker, a state secretary in the foreign office, would go to Moscow next month to arrange final details.

West German officials have discouraged speculation that a Schmidt-Brezhnev summit would produce any major agreements on Afghanistan, arms control or any other areas. Diplomatic sources note the West Germans, a major ally partner in the North Atlantic alliance, could make no substantive agreements on behalf of the West without U.S. approval.

Mr. Boelling said the talks could be useful "for discussing ways to limit conflicts, without any certainty that one could bring home a completed formula for (solving) this or any other conflict." Any Schmidt-Brezhnev talks would be expected to centre around Afghanistan, general East-West relations and arms control.

Unlike the Giscard summit, the Germans say Mr. Schmidt's visit will be made following close consultations with the United States and other Western allies.

Carter compares U.S. volcano's force to modern nuclear warhead

KELSO, Washington, May 23 (Agencies) — President Carter has compared the destructive force of the Mount St. Helens volcano to that of a modern nuclear warhead, and said the devastated area could become a tourist attraction.

The president, who flew within three kilometres of the volcanic crater in a helicopter, estimated the force of last weekend's eruption at about ten megatons.

That is the equivalent of ten million tons of dynamite and, according to U.S. officials, matches the

strength of the most powerful missile warheads now in the American arsenal.

The president called the eruption "one of the most remarkable and formidable natural phenomena of all recorded time."

He said the vast sheets of mud and grey ash, in some cases flattening forests, would eventually become a major attraction for tourists and scientists from all over the world.

Mr. Carter's helicopter was forced to turn back from the volcano because of rain and snow. "When the helicopter pilots turned around, I was not about to argue with them," he told reporters.

The president said he had little hope that any of the 71 people still listed as missing in the disaster area could have survived. The known death toll is ten.

"It's a horrible sight. There's nothing left except piles of mud. The devastation is much worse than I ever dreamed it was," he

said. Mr. Carter returned to Washington, D.C. from the northern Pacific coast in Washington state last night.

Earth satellite photographs of the initial explosion show the shock waves of the blast rolling through clouds hundreds of kilometres away.

The first blast was so powerful that it levelled 388.50 square kilometres of trees and threw nearly one billion cubic metres of ash and rock into the air, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The USGS has estimated that the material blasted loose by the eruption is only slightly less than that from Mount Vesuvius which covered the city of Pompeii in 79 A.D.

While most of the material from the explosion landed in Washington and neighbouring states, tons remain suspended in the air as it moves round the world.



A lone boat is surrounded by millions of logs that jammed the Cowlitz River at Longview, Washington following the eruption of Mount St. Helens Sunday. Longview is some 110 kilometres southwest of Mount St. Helens. (AP wirephoto)

Transport systems: Counting the cost

The rapid growth of transport helps bring about economic development. But it also brings environmental destruction — from the 220,000 tonnes of oil spilt by the Amoco Cadiz to the quarter of a million people killed each year on the world's roads. UNEP appeals for a balance between economic and ecological needs.

Transport systems are a vital part of every national economy. But moving people and goods on land and sea and in the air can have some unwelcome side-effects on the environment. Ill-planned transport systems consume scarce natural resources, kill people and cause severe local pollution.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) focuses on the impact of transport on our surroundings in its State of the Environment Report for 1980. UNEP urges nations and the international community as a whole to plan transport infrastructures — roads, railways, ports, airports etc. — in a way that balances transport and environmental needs.

Greater emphasis should be placed on rail transport, cities made safer and less polluted for pedestrians, roads built with long-term requirements in view, jets made quieter, supertankers built to more rigorous standards, and so on.

UNEP recognises that the developing countries want to expand their fledgling transport systems, but advises them not to be swayed by short-term pressures.

A new road, for example, can bring "uncontrolled and inappropriate rural development." Haphazard road building can also swallow up prime farmland and ruin areas rich in wildlife. In the U.S. alone more than nine million hectares — about the size of Portugal — is under tarmac.

Despite the spiralling cost of oil, your appetite for cars seems undiminished. And the fastest growing markets are in the developing countries where in some cities car ownership has been rising at over 20 per cent a year.

Most Third World cities were not built to accommodate so many cars. In many Third World countries the death rate per million vehicle kilometres is six times higher than in the U.S.

Some European cities like Gothenburg in Sweden have reacted to the four-wheeled invasion by creating traffic-free areas. It makes life less hazardous for the pedestrian, but is a placebo cure for pollution because the vehicles are only being re-routed.

Some countries have tackled the problem of air exhaust pollution by imposing strict emission controls and by reducing the lead content of petrol. But emission control devices can increase a car's petrol consumption and can be a handicap in the search for devising less wasteful ways of burning petrol. Emission control has helped to cure Los Angeles' smog problem, but U.S. cars and lorries account for about half the petrol consumed in the country.

What is most important — environmental health or economy? This is what UNEP means when it says that "the central problem with transport is how to strike a balance."

In his State of the Environment Report, UNEP executive director, Dr. Mostafa Tolba, says that

World News Briefs

PARIS, May 23 (AP) — The second test firing of Europe's satellite launcher failed today and the rocket fell into the sea. The launching turned towards failure 60 seconds after the three-stage rocket soared up from French Guiana, said officials of the European Space Agency. Officials said the failure had apparently developed during the first-stage firing and to separation of the second stage. The three-stage rocket carried 1,700 kilogramme payload containing two West German satellites. The first test flight of the rocket, financed largely by France and Germany, was successful last December.

NEW DELHI, May 23 (R) — Between ten and 20 schoolgirls injured in clashes with police during anti-Soviet demonstrations in Kabul yesterday, travellers arriving from the Afghan capital today. They said girls had been demonstrating for the past two days against the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan. The girls were unable to confirm earlier reports which said that ten schoolgirls and three policemen were killed on Tuesday. It said that ten to 20 girls from the Malalia high school had been taken to hospital during the demonstrations, but it was not known whether the girls had been killed. The girls were taken to hospital during the demonstrations, but it was not known whether the girls had been killed. The girls were taken to hospital during the demonstrations, but it was not known whether the girls had been killed.

ISLAMABAD, May 23 (R) — Pakistan dentist Dr. Zafar Nazki, a leading opponent of military ruler General Zia-ul-Haq, was arrested in an armed police raid on his home, his wife said yesterday. Dr. Nazki, 49, a close friend of executed prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and his family, was arrested without a warrant and held in an Islamabad police station. Police removed a letter searching his bedroom and office, his wife Shaukat told reporters. Dr. Nazki was held for nine months without trial in 1978 on charges which were later dropped. A case against him for liquor on his premises is still pending. Dr. Nazki was Mr. Bhutto's dentist and during Mr. Bhutto's lengthy incarceration in a death before his execution in April last year, he made a public plea against the subhuman conditions in which he said the former prime minister was confined.

MOSCOW, May 23 (AP) — Mr. Mikhail Sholokhov, Nobel-winning author of "Quiet Flows the Don," was awarded the Order Lenin today and named a Hero of Socialist Labour for the time in connection with his 75th birthday. TASS news agency reported. The agency said Mr. Sholokhov was hailed in a signed by President Leonid Brezhnev for "outstanding services to the development of Soviet literature." The second "Hero" award in a list of Mr. Sholokhov will be raised in his home town of shenskaya, TASS said. Mr. Sholokhov was awarded a Nobel literature in 1955.

UNITED NATIONS, May 23 (AP) — Practically all media out the world portray women in a seemingly contradictory "either perfectly good or wholly evil, mother or whore" image, a report presented yesterday to a U.N. seminar, "Women in the Media," says Miss Margaret Gallagher, a 35-year-old researcher who wrote the report, spent two years compiling it. She submitted it to the seminar sponsored by the U.N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The 604 report was based on documents and studies from 75 countries. It says that women are continually exposed by the media. The message is clear: better to be wide-eyed and pretty than to be forceful. She women hold only a minor percentage of jobs in media fields, added she believes, "the mass media's role is primarily to reinforce definitions and identities set in a framework constructed for men." Suggesting a solution, she said: "The overriding concern women should be with changes in the political and economic structure." The four-day seminar, attended by about 30 delegates from many countries, ends today.

HOLLYWOOD, May 23 (AP) — "The Empire Strikes Back," sequel to Hollywood's successful movie "Star Wars," has struck a vengeance at theatre box offices, surpassing the opening revenues of its predecessor. "The Empire Strikes Back" took an average of \$10,606 per theatre on opening night Wednesday. "Star Wars" took in an average of \$7,965 per theatre when it opened May 25, 1977. "Star Wars" is the biggest movie money-maker of time. It cost \$10 million to produce, while "Empire" cost \$25 million.

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